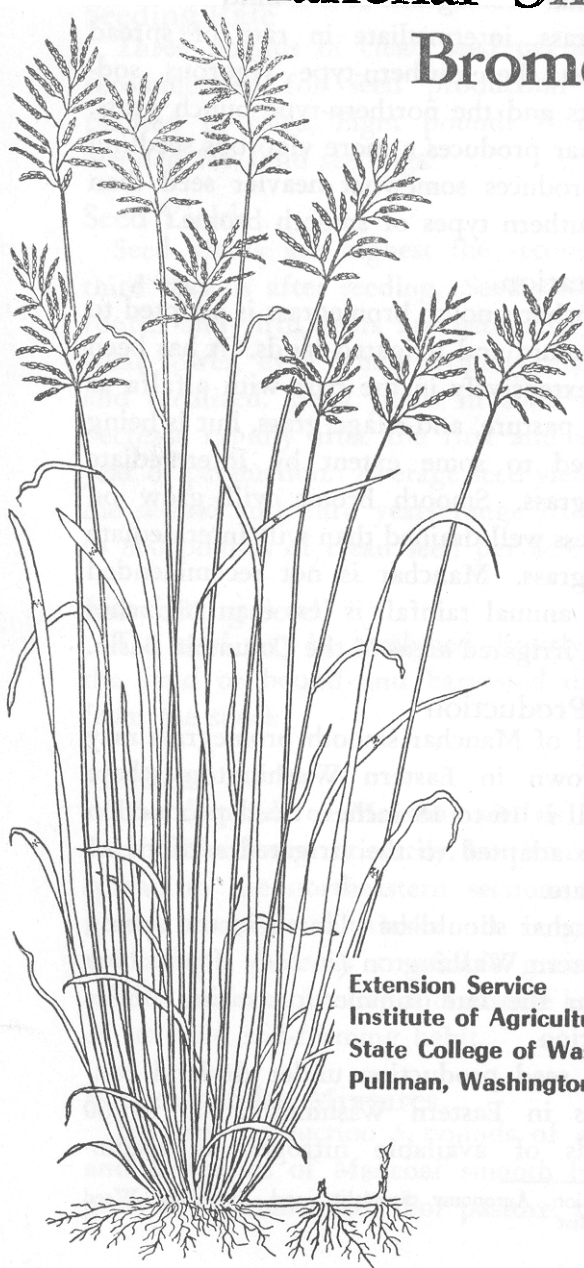


Manchar Smooth Bromegrass



Extension Service
Institute of Agricultural Sciences
State College of Washington
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Manchar Smooth Brome

Bromus inermis

Kenneth J. Morrison and H. H. Wolfe¹

Description

Manchar is a long-lived northern-type perennial brome. It is a mild sod-forming grass, intermediate in rate of spread between the southern-type vigorous sod-formers and the northern-type bunch grass. Manchar produces a more vigorous seedling and produces somewhat heavier seed than the southern types of smooth brome.

Adaptation

Manchar smooth brome is adapted to semi-humid and irrigated lands. It has been used extensively in the past with alfalfa as a hay, pasture, and silage grass, but is being replaced to some extent by Intermediate wheatgrass. Smooth brome will grow on sites less well drained than will Intermediate wheatgrass. Manchar is not recommended where annual rainfall is less than 18 inches nor in irrigated areas in the Columbia Basin.

Seed Production

Seed of Manchar smooth brome may be grown in Eastern Washington where rainfall is 16 to 18 inches. Seed production is also adapted to the irrigated sections of the state.

Manchar should be planted in the spring in Eastern Washington (in May if possible) and in the late summer or spring under irrigation.

For seed production under dryland conditions in Eastern Washington, 40 to 60 pounds of available nitrogen is recom-

mended. Under irrigation, 80 pounds or more of available nitrogen have given highest yields of grass seed.

Foundation seed is available through your Crop Improvement Association and Soil Conservation districts.

Seeding Rate

Three pounds of clean seed per acre is recommended for seed production fields planted in rows. Eight pounds is recommended for solid seedings.

Seed Yields

Seed yields are highest the second and third seasons after seeding. Seed yields the fourth and fifth years are generally somewhat lower, even when properly managed and fertilized. Seed yields in solid stands decrease rapidly after the first and second year of production. Average seed yields for the second and third years range from 400 to 800 pounds of clean seed per acre.

Harvesting Seed

The seed may be combined directly from the field or bound and harvested directly from the shock.

Markets

The demand for Manchar seed is in the Pacific Northwest primarily, but its use has spread to the northeastern section of the United States and Alaska. It is gaining recognition there as a suitable grass with alfalfa mixtures for hay and pasture because of its mild sod-forming habit.

Recommended Mixtures

For hay production 5 pounds of alfalfa and 8 pounds of Manchar smooth brome-grass is recommended. For pasture, the al-

¹ Extension Agronomy Specialist and Extension Weed Specialist

alfalfa should be reduced to 2 to 4 pounds per acre and the smooth brome kept at 8 pounds per acre.

Plant alfalfa and smooth brome on a well-prepared seedbed.

Use 20 pounds of available nitrogen to establish the stand for either forage or seed production. If alfalfa and smooth brome are to be used for hay production only, alternate row seedings are the best planting method. The best stands of alfalfa and smooth brome are obtained if seeded in the spring.

Forty to sixty pounds of nitrogen will increase production in the high rainfall areas where smooth brome and alfalfa are used for pasture.

Smooth brome is excellent for conservation seedings such as waterways and water courses. It should be seeded at the rate of 10 pounds per acre when seeded alone for erosion control. Certified seed is available at most local seed stores.

Washington State College research finds the answers. WSC Extension service brings you the information.

This is circular No. 4 in a series on grasses and legumes.

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